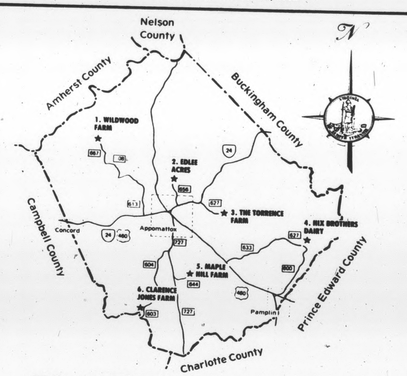

Directions to Tour Farms

(From the Town of Appomattox)

1. WILDWOOD FARM - Drive west on U.S. 460 for 1.7 miles, turn right on Rt. 613 and drive 6.5 miles until it intersects Rt. 608, turn right and drive 0.6 mile, incline left on Rt. 667 and drive 1.1 mile to farm.

2. EDLEE ACRES - Drive northeast on State Rt. 24 for one-half mile, turn left on Rt. 656 and drive 1.4 mile to farm.

3. THE TORRENCE FARM - Drive 2.3 miles on State Rt. 24. Turn right on Rt. 627 and drive 1.9 mile to farm.

4. HIX BROTHERS DAIRY - Drive 4.6 miles east on U.S. 460, turn left on Rt. 633. Drive 4.2 miles until it intersects Rt. 627 and drive 2.5 miles to farm.

5. MAPLE HILL FARM - Drive south on State Rt. 727 four miles. Turn left on Rt. 644 drive .35 mile, incline left on Rt. 720 and drive .3 mile to farm.

6. CLARENCE JONES FARM - Drive south 1.9 miles on State Rt. 727. Turn right on Rt. 604, drive 6.2 miles to Rt. 603, turn left and drive .9 mile to farm.

Wildwood Farm's story

[Continued from page 4]

Tour, Saturday, July 17, in Appomattox County.

Six farms will be open to the public from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Tours and management discussions will be held continuously throughout the day. The annual tour is being sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with Appomattox County agricultural leaders.

Visitors to Wildwood Farm can look forward to demonstrations on firewood production, chainsaw care, and logging. There also will be discussions of wildlife management and a hay wagon tour of the farm.

[FROM LEFT] THE PHIL HARRISON family--Phil, his wife, the former Maurine McCormick, and son, Russell. Not pictured is one-year-old Zachary. [From right] The John Harrison family--John, his wife, the former Mary Lou Jamerson, sons Josh and Brent, and daughter Lisa.

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Clarence Jones Farm

[Continued from page 15]

pulled from the stalk as they ripen, placed in racks and hung in metal bulk barns where they are cured with the use of LP gas furnace. The curing process takes six to seven days using a maximum 160-degree Fahrenheit temperature.

The five bulk barns on the Jones farm each cost around $12,000 and yield 3,000 pounds of cured leaf weekly during harvest season. Once the leaves have been dried sufficiently, they are placed in 200-pound piles and sheeted for their trip to market.

The Joneses require many workers to help plant and harvest their labor-intensive crop. "We don't have any problem getting day labor," Clarence said. "In fact, so many people usually come to help that we can pick and choose who we want."

During these times, the husband-wife team employ 15-20 workers and oversee their efforts. Clarence stays in the field as crew chief and Dale is the boss at the bulk barns.

Although there are 14 tractors on the Jones farm, the equipment investment has been small. An excellent mechanic, Clarence buys older model tractors and repairs them for farm work.

He also saves money with a "no-loan" policy. "I've never borrowed a dime in my life and I'm in a better position for it," stated the soft-spoken farmer. "No matter what type of farm you have, it's hard to make it if you must borrow money for land or equipment."

Both husband and wife

[Continued on page 20]

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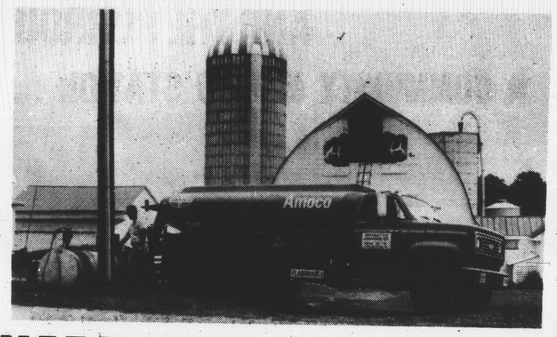

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